

Don't Fence Me In

Words & Music by Robert Fletcher & Cole Porter © 1942 all rights reserved

D

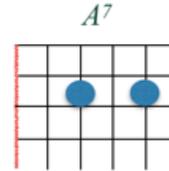
Give me land, lots land under starry skies above.

A7

Don't fence me in.

A7

Let me ride through the wide-open country that I love.



A7

D

Don't fence me in.

D

D7

Let me be by myself in the evening breeze,

G

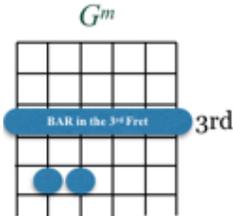
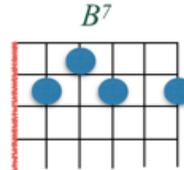
Listen to the murmur of the cotton wood trees.

D

B7

Gm

Send me off forever but I ask you please,



D

A7

D

Don't fence me in.

D

G

Just turn me loose, let me straddle my old saddle,

D

Underneath the western skies.

G

On my Cayuse let me wander over yonder,

D A

Till I see the mountains rise.

A

D

D7

I want to ride to the ridge where the west commences.

G

Gaze at the moon till I lose my senses.

D

B7

Gm

I can't look at hobbles and I can't stand fences.

D

A7

D

Don't fence me in.

History

Movie audiences first heard “**Don’t Fence Me In**” performed by Roy Rogers in the 1944 Warner Bros. musical *Hollywood Canteen*, just two months after Kate Smith introduced it on her popular radio

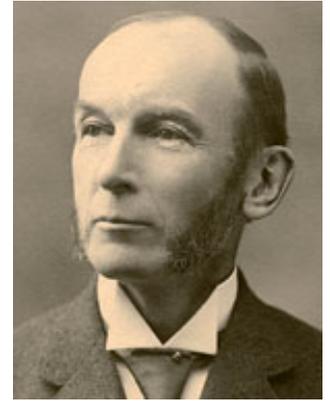


Cole Porter

program. But it was written by Cole Porter ten years earlier for a *20th Century Fox* musical, *Adios, Argentina*, that never got made.

Porter found inspiration in the western poem *Open Range* by the Montana engineer, and later Dean of the Thayer School of Engineering at Dartmouth, Robert Fletcher, who sold him the rights in 1934.

Porter was given sole credit despite wanting Fletcher to be listed as co-writer. He later re-negotiated to have the poet's name listed on future publications and voluntarily gave him a portion of the royalties.



Robert Fletcher
poet & engineer

Roy Rogers' version became a beloved rendition, and the title was used for one of his most popular Western films in 1945 (which included another performance of the song). The clip of him singing the tune in *Hollywood Canteen* was also used in the 1946 Cole Porter biopic *Night and Day*.

<http://www.songfacts.com/>, momentstoremember2.wordpress.com, engineering.dartmouth.edu

The Cayuse are a First American tribe of the northwest United States.

The Cayuse call themselves the Tetawken, which means "we, the people," located in northeastern Oregon and southeastern Washington, adjacent to territory of the Nez Perce. The Cayuse placed a high premium on warfare and were skilled horsemen, often using their horse-riding prowess to intimidate other peoples.

It has been generally accepted that the Cayuse Pony is descended from cross breeding French-Norman Percherons imported into Canada, and Spanish barbs imported to Mexico in the 1600s. The French Percherons were one of the only work horses which could easily trot for extended periods of time.

The Cayuse crossed the sturdy French horses with the lighter Spanish Barbs to produce a horse which had not only speed, but endurance. The new breed was named for the Tetawken people, “Cayuse.”

[from horsehints.org/IndianCayuse.htm](http://horsehints.org/IndianCayuse.htm)



Chief David Young taken by
Major Moorhouse
Photograph provided by Angela
Swedberg